



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

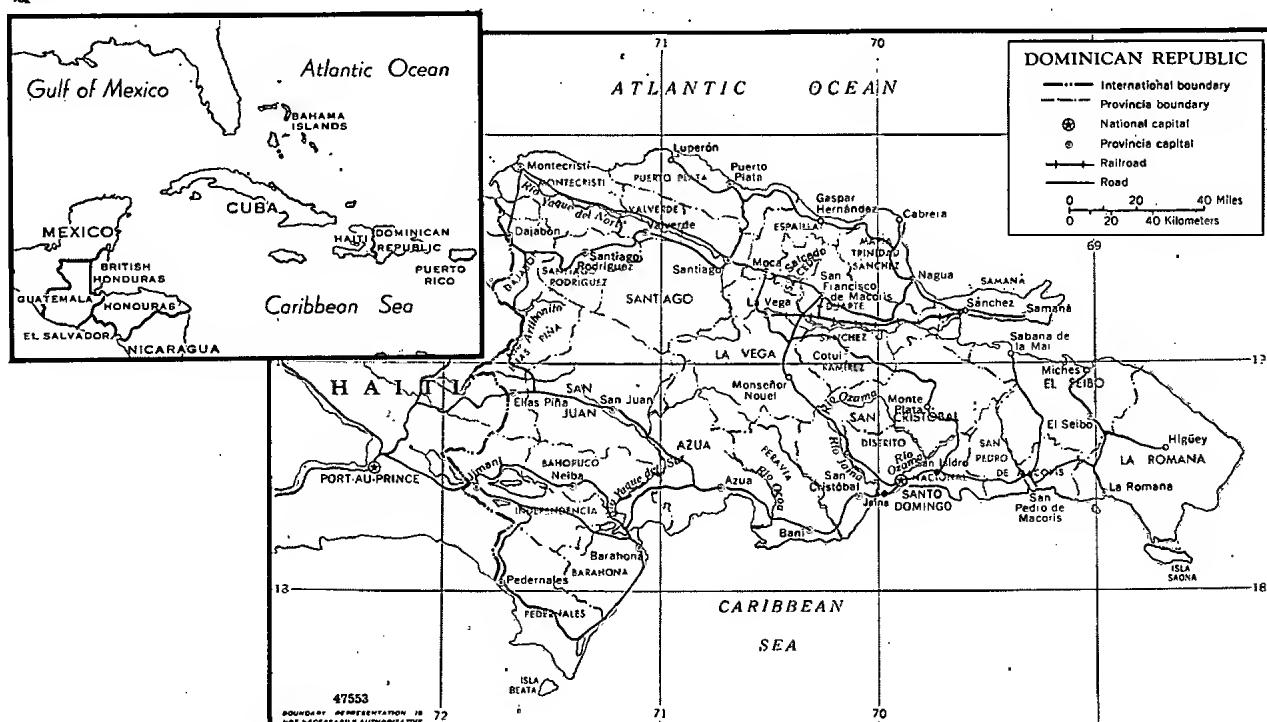
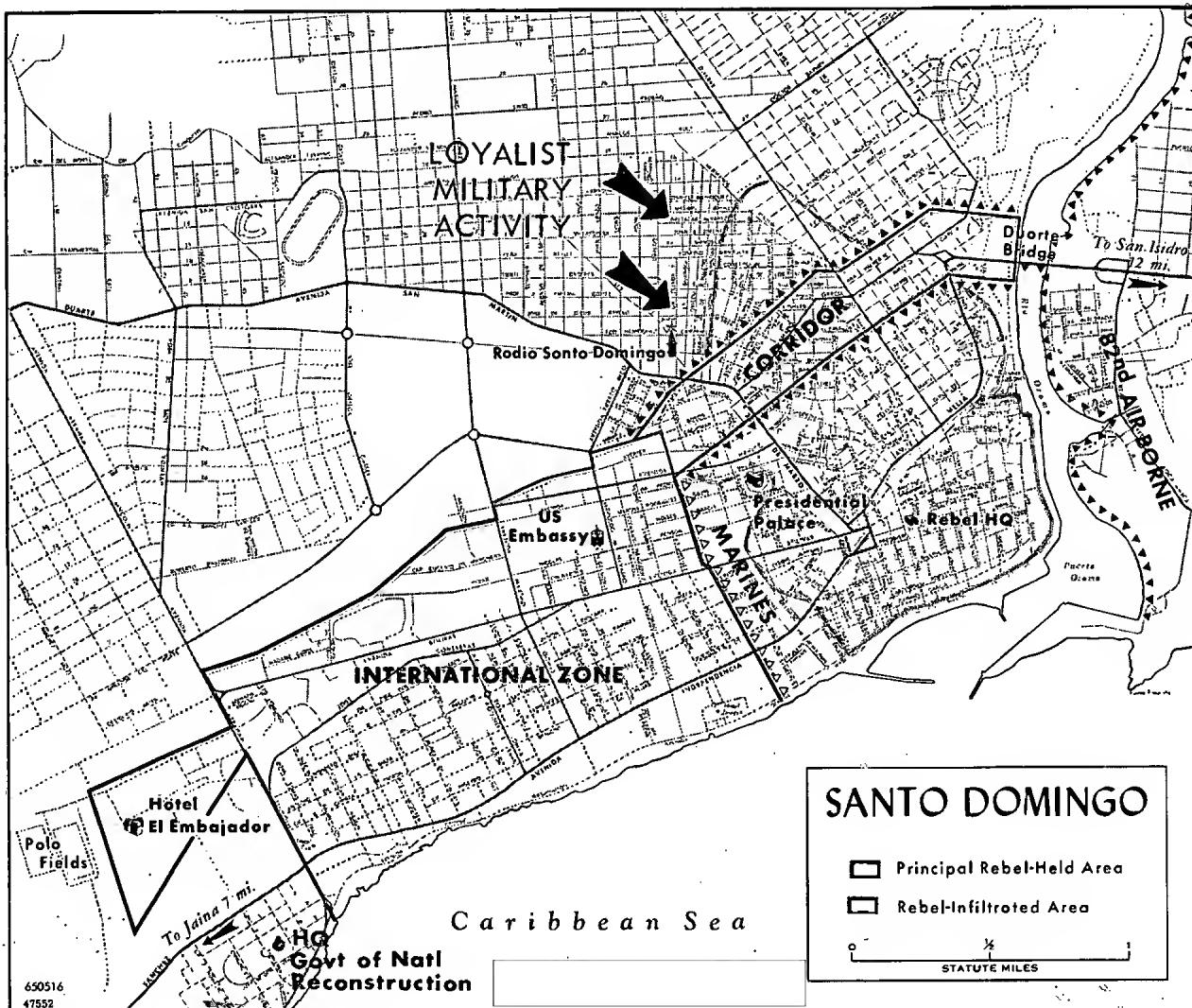


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20 MAY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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LATE ITEM

Dominican Republic

The situation appears little changed in its essentials.

Loyalist forces advanced eastward again during the day in the northern part of the city against light rebel opposition, but the rebels retain their grip on the center. Tomorrow, both sides are supposed to observe a 12-hour truce to permit the Red Cross to evacuate the dead and wounded.

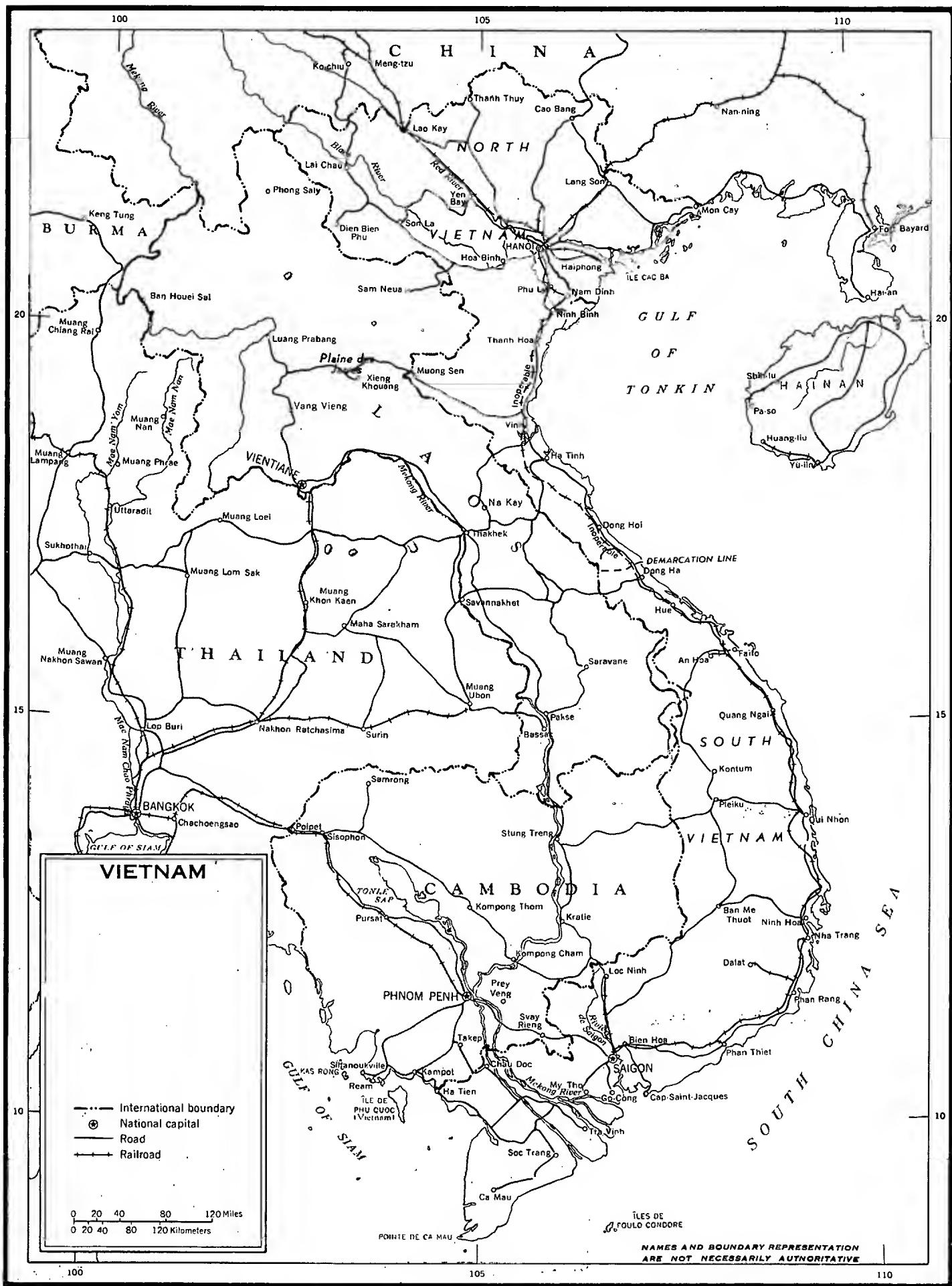
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Last night, a rebel radio broadcast an appeal for the troops to hold out "just one day more." Victory was at hand, the broadcast said, and "many nations" were said to be on the verge of granting diplomatic recognition to the Caamano "government."

On the loyalist side, Imbert told the press today that he expects peace will come "tomorrow or the day after." He implied that this would come about as a result of the conquest of the rebels by his forces.

The interior of the country remains calm. The food situation--while tight--in some places seems to be better than it was a week ago, and late reports from towns in the north and east say sugar workers there are back at work.

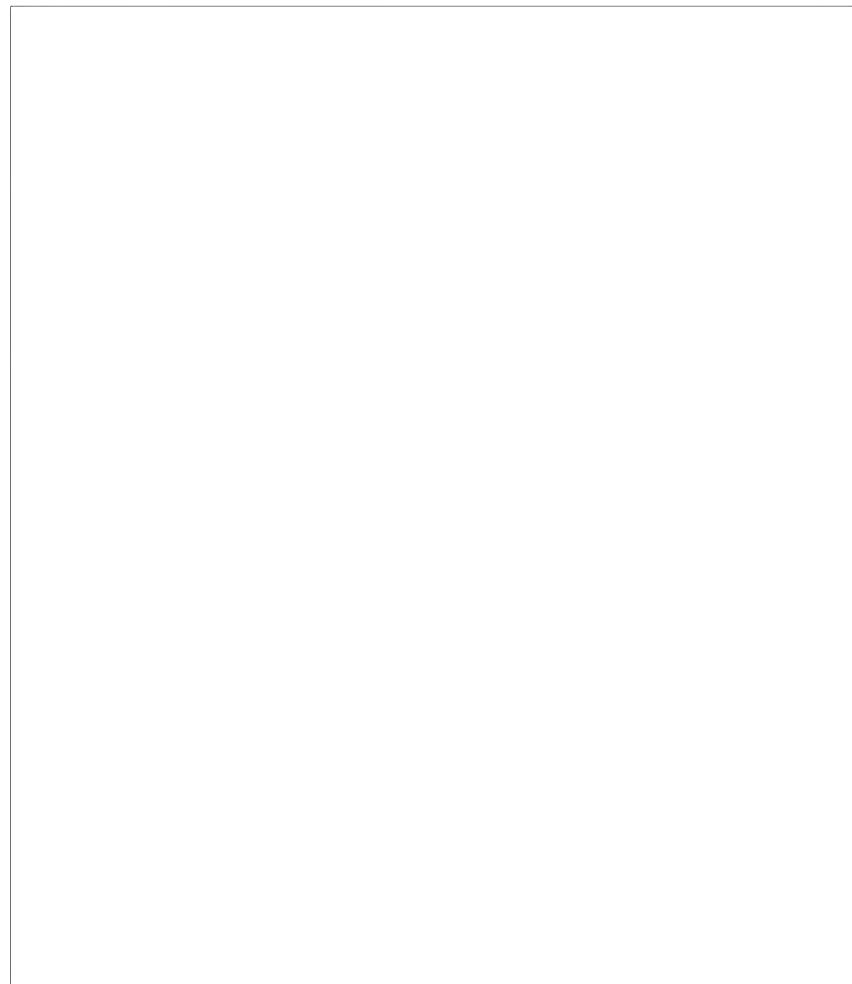
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1. Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

The government received police reports of a possible coup attempt by Colonel Thao today and took precautionary measures. This probably accounts for today's press stories of military alerts in the Saigon area. The chances of a successful coup appear slim.

3. Communist China

Peiping's continuing purchases of gold in London may reflect concern over the Vietnamese situation.

Since January the Chinese have turned [redacted] sterling into gold and shipped it to Peiping. The earlier purchases were thought to be a reaction to rumors of devaluation of free-world currency. The steady buying, however, now suggests Peiping may fear its assets in Western countries might be seized if the Vietnamese war is widened.

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4. USSR

Moscow is adopting an even harder public line toward the US on Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.

TASS today made one of its strongest attacks on President Johnson to date. The statement seemed aimed at impressing on the US the Soviet determination to continue assisting Hanoi. The statement also claimed that the USSR was still ready for "serious negotiations to lessen tensions," but its tone suggests that Moscow is prepared to accept further deterioration of US-Soviet relations.

On Tuesday, a Pravda article bitterly criticized US actions in Santo Domingo. The article was in marked contrast with Moscow's previously low-key commentary on the subject.

5. Colombia

Colombian Communists are urging a national student strike to put more pressure on the already shaken government of President Valencia.

Student demonstrations during the past week were small and reasonably orderly. Now, however, the Communist-controlled National Federation of University Students is seeking to recruit non-radical students in a larger effort.

The danger in this situation is not so much any immediate Communist threat, but the likelihood of military intervention in some form if the students should riot.

6. Bolivia

There had been no reports of new incidents late this afternoon, but the situation still remained tense.

7. Argentina

Argentina's military leaders are losing patience with President Illia.

They are now reported incensed because the government postponed a decision to send troops to the Dominican Republic.

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8. Brazil

The Brazilians are holding out the threat of military intervention in Uruguay in an effort to focus attention on that country's deteriorating economic and political situation.

Responsible Brazilian newspapers are predicting a crisis in Uruguay which, they say, will threaten Brazilian security. The Brazilian foreign minister has stated privately that intervention is a serious possibility, especially if the Communists in Uruguay should gain from the developments there.

The US Embassy in Rio reports that the Brazilians are genuinely concerned, and are trying to stimulate US interest and consultation on contingency measures. The embassy sees no signs of imminent Brazilian military action, however.

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